UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/C.2/15/Add.11
20 February 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
OF OUTER SPACE
Legal Sub-Committee

CONSIDERATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION OF OUTER SPACE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE BENEFIT AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL STATES, TAKING INTO PARTICULAR ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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JAPAN

[Original: English]

[6 June 1990]

The main national legal framework in Japan relating to the development of the application of the principle contained in article 1 of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty is as follows:

1. The Law concerning the National Space Development agency of Japan (NASDA)

The following is an unofficial translation of the relevant articles of the Law:

(Purpose)

"Article 1: The National Space Development Agency (hereinafter 'the Agency') shall be established for the purpose of contributing to the promotion of space development and utilization exclusively for peaceful purposes by launching and tracking artificial satellites as well as rockets for launching artificial satellites in an integrated, planned and effective manner."

(Scope of activities)

"Article 22: The Agency shall conduct the following activities in order to achieve the purpose referred to in article 1:

(1) Development of artificial satellites and rockets for launching artificial satellites (hereinafter referred to as 'artificial satellites, etc.') as well as development of facilities and equipment necessary therefor;

(2) Launching and tracking of artificial satellites, etc., developed by the agency as well as the development of means facilities and equipment necessary therefor;

(3) Upon commission, development referred to in (1), launching and tracking of artificial satellites, etc., and the development of means, facilities and equipment necessary therefor;

(4) Activities incidental to those activities referred to in the preceding three paragraphs;

(5) Activities necessary for the accomplishment of the purpose referred to in article 1 other than the activities referred to in the preceding paragraphs."

(Standard for the management of activities)

"Article 24: Activities of the Agency shall be conducted in accordance with the Basic Plan for Space Development, which is to be determined by the Prime Minister on the basis of the resolution by the Space Activities Commission."

2. National School Establishment Law

The Institute of Space and Astronautical Science (ISAS) is one of the inter-university research institutes in Japan. National institutions for education and research are set up in accordance with the National School Establishment Law. Article 9-2 of this law provides that the Government can establish inter-university research institutes, and the Enforcement Order for this law, in its articles 5 and 6, provides for the name and objective of each inter-university research institute. ISAS, along with other institutes, is listed in a table attached to article 6 as the institution whose objective it is to carry out "research and engineering in space science and their application."

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic]

[7 November 1990]

The tenor of paragraphs 88 and 90 of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has our full support, and we should like to comment on the recommendations by presenting the following ideas.

We feel that the enormous expansion that has occurred in the exploration of outer space has brought with it a great increase in space activities that have been highly beneficial to the small number of industrialized countries that control space technology, while the majority of developing countries are still excluded from benefiting from the results obtained. They have been unable to obtain the upgraded applications and software programmes that might assist them in meeting their development needs. We are therefore prompted by the firm hope that the idea of international cooperation in space studies will be put into effect and that those developing countries currently engaged in developing their own capacities to utilize space information and remote-sensing data will be afforded the appropriate opportunities and will be encouraged through the provision of better technical and financial support, given that the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space provide an outstanding opportunity to promote and stimulate the economic and social development of the peoples of the world, particularly the peoples capable of growth.